Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 /022 W ------020638Z 004106 /13

R 011010Z APR 77 FM AMEMBASSY LISBON TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0806 INFO AMEMBASSY BISSAU

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FOR AF SCHAUFELE; INFO SCA WATSON, EUR CLARK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, PDIP, CV

SUBJ: US REPRESENTATION IN CAPE VERDE

- 1. I HAVE JUST SEEN AMBASSADOR WELLS' MARCH 15
 MEMORANDUM TO YOU CONCERNING US REPRESENTATION IN CAPE
 VERDE. IN ADDITION, I HAVE DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT
 PERSONALLY WITH HER. WHILE OUR PERSPECTIVE IS OBVIOUSLY
 LIMITED, I THINK SHE MAKES A VERY PERSUASIVE CASE FOR
 OPENING A POST IN PRAIA.
- 2. WE HERE FIND IT INCONGRUENT THAT THE SINGLE LARGEST CONSULAR WORKLOAD PERFORMED FOR AFRICA IS BEING DONE IN LISBON. ABOUT ONE THIRD OF AFRICAN IMMIGRATION IS ACCOUNTED FOR BY CAPE VERDE; OVER HALF THE FEDERAL BENEFITS AND PROBABLY THE LARGEST GROUP OF AMERICAN CITIZENS OUTSIDE SOUTH AFRICA ARE IN CAPE VERDE.
- 3. ASSUMING WE GET THE RESOURCES WE ARE PERFECTLY HAPPY TO DO THIS WORK. BUT IT IS A HIGHLY INEFFICIENT WAY TO CONDUCT CONSULAR AFFAIRS. CAPE VERDE IS 1800 MILES FROM LISBON. IT IS A LONG AND EXPENSIVE JOURNEY FOR AFRICANS. MANY CAPE VERDIANS WITH LEGITIMATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CLAIMS FOR SERVICES ARE SIMPLY NOT ABLE TO GET TO A CONSULAR OFFICE. OTHERS MUST SUFFER UNCONSCIONABLE DELAYS.

4. AT THE MOMENT WE DO NOT EVEN HAVE THE RESOURCES TO DO THE JOB. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE REPROGRAMMED A POSITION TO ACCOMMODATE THE INCREASE IN CAPE VERDE IMMIGRATION,

WE HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED IN STATE 66642 THAT WE CANNOT FILL IT. UNLESS THIS SITUATION IS CORRECTED WE WILL HAVE TO APPEAL THE ENTIRE ISSUE OF THE CAPE VERDIAN WORKLOAD TO THE DEPARTMENT.

5. GOOD MANAGEMENT, POLITICAL SENSITIVITY AND OUR OVERALL INTERESTS IN ESTABLISHING STRONGER TIES IN CAPE VERDE ALL POINT IN THE DIRECTION OF OPENING A POST IN PRAIA. RECOGNIZING THAT YOU HAVE MANY CRISES TO DEAL WITH AT THE MOMENT, I HOPE NONETHELESS THAT THIS MATTER WILL RECEIVE YOUR PERSONAL ATTENTION. CARLUCCI

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